



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

---

*Federal Building  
55 Pleasant Street, Room 352  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

*603/225-1552*

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**  
**June 30, 2003**

**Contact: Thomas P. Colantuono**  
**United States Attorney**  
**Helen White Fitzgibbon**  
**Assistant U.S. Attorney**  
**(603) 225-1552**

**MEXICAN WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO PASSPORT FRAUD**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE:** United States Attorney Tom Colantuono today announced that 28-year-old Surisaddai Arteaga of Southampton, New York, pleaded guilty today in U.S. District Court in Concord to one count of passport fraud.

Arteaga, who is a citizen of Mexico, was indicted last November for attempting to obtain a United States passport by fraud. She falsely stated on her United States passport application that she was born in the United States, and she attached a counterfeit birth certificate to her application that purported to show that she was born in the state of Washington. Arteaga's passport application was received and reviewed by the National Passport Center located in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, where the fraud was discovered.

Commenting on this case, United States Attorney Tom Colantuono said, "A United States Passport is the most coveted travel document in the world. It immediately identifies the holder as a United States citizen to the rest of the world. Efforts to defraud the United States into issuing a passport to someone who is not entitled to receive it cannot and will not be tolerated."

Arteaga is scheduled to be sentenced at the United States District Courthouse in Concord on September 29, 2003. She faces a possible maximum sentence of ten years and a possible maximum fine of \$250,000.

This case was investigated by the Diplomatic Security Service of the U. S. State Department and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Helen White Fitzgibbon.